

(iv) No person may fish for, or possess on board a fishing vessel, a Caribbean queen conch in or from the Caribbean EEZ, except during October 1 through June 30 in the area east of 64°34' W. longitude which includes Lang Bank east of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

(2) *Gulf.* (i) Gulf and South Atlantic prohibited coral taken as incidental catch in the Gulf EEZ must be returned immediately to the sea in the general area of fishing. In fisheries where the entire catch is landed unsorted, such as the scallop and groundfish fisheries, unsorted prohibited coral may be landed ashore; however, no person may sell or purchase such prohibited coral.

(ii) Goliath grouper may not be harvested or possessed in or from the Gulf EEZ.

(iii) Red drum and Nassau grouper may not be harvested or possessed in or from the Gulf EEZ. Such fish caught in the Gulf EEZ must be released immediately with a minimum of harm.

(3) *South Atlantic.* (i) Gulf and South Atlantic prohibited coral taken as incidental catch in the South Atlantic EEZ must be returned immediately to the sea in the general area of fishing. In fisheries where the entire catch is landed unsorted, such as the scallop and groundfish fisheries, unsorted prohibited coral may be landed ashore; however, no person may sell or purchase such prohibited coral.

(ii) Goliath grouper and Nassau grouper may not be harvested or possessed in or from the South Atlantic EEZ. Goliath grouper and Nassau grouper taken in the South Atlantic EEZ incidentally by hook-and-line must be released immediately by cutting the line without removing the fish from the water.

(iii) Wild live rock may not be harvested or possessed in the South Atlantic EEZ.

(iv) It is intended that no female golden crabs in or from the South Atlantic EEZ be retained on board a vessel and that any female golden crab in or from the South Atlantic EEZ be released in a manner that will ensure maximum probability of survival. However, to accommodate legitimate incidental catch and retention, the number

of female golden crabs in or from the South Atlantic EEZ retained on board a vessel may not exceed 0.5 percent, by number, of all golden crabs on board. See §622.45(f)(1) regarding the prohibition of sale of female golden crabs.

(v) South Atlantic snapper-grouper may not be possessed in whole, gutted, or filleted form by a person aboard a vessel fishing for or possessing golden crab in or from the South Atlantic EEZ or possessing a golden crab trap in the South Atlantic. Only the head, fins, and backbone (collectively the "rack") of South Atlantic snapper-grouper may be possessed for use as bait.

(c) *Limited-harvest species.* A person who fishes in the EEZ may not combine a harvest limitation specified in this paragraph (c) with a harvest limitation applicable to state waters. A species subject to a harvest limitation specified in this paragraph (c) taken in the EEZ may not be transferred at sea, regardless of where such transfer takes place, and such species may not be transferred in the EEZ.

(1) *Cobia.* No person may possess more than two cobia per day in or from the Gulf, Mid-Atlantic, or South Atlantic EEZ, regardless of the number of trips or duration of a trip.

(2) *Cubera snapper.* No person may harvest more than two cubera snapper measuring 30 inches (76.2 cm), TL, or larger, per day in the South Atlantic EEZ off Florida and no more than two such cubera snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ off Florida may be possessed on board a vessel at any time.

(3) *Speckled hind and warsaw grouper.* The possession of speckled hind and warsaw grouper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is limited to one of each per vessel per trip.

[61 FR 34934, July 3, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 43959, Aug. 27, 1996; 62 FR 13988, Mar. 25, 1997; 63 FR 10567, Mar. 4, 1998; 70 FR 62081, Oct. 28, 2005; 73 FR 58060, Oct. 6, 2008]

§ 622.33 Caribbean EEZ seasonal and/or area closures.

(a) *Seasonal closures.* In addition to the other restrictions specified in this paragraph (a), fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited year-round in the

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closed areas specified in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3) of this section.

(1) *Mutton snapper spawning aggregation area.* From March 1 through June 30, each year, fishing is prohibited in that part of the following area that is in the EEZ. The area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the points listed.

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	17°37.8'	64°53.0'
B	17°39.0'	64°53.0'
C	17°39.0'	64°50.5'
D	17°38.1'	64°50.5'
E	17°37.8'	64°52.5'
A	17°37.8'	64°53.0'

(2) *Red hind spawning aggregation areas.* From December 1 through February 28, each year, fishing is prohibited in those parts of the following areas that are in the EEZ. Each area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the points listed.

(i) *East of St. Croix.*

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	17°50.2'	64°27.9'
B	17°50.1'	64°26.1'
C	17°49.2'	64°25.8'
D	17°48.6'	64°25.8'
E	17°48.1'	64°26.1'
F	17°47.5'	64°26.9'
A	17°50.2'	64°27.9'

(ii) *West of Puerto Rico—(A) Bajo de Cico.*

Point A	North lat.	West long.
A	18°15.7'	67°26.4'
B	18°15.7'	67°23.2'
C	18°12.7'	67°23.4'
D	18°12.7'	67°26.4'
A	18°15.7'	67°26.4'

(B) *Tourmaline Bank.*

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	18°11.2'	67°22.4'
B	18°11.2'	67°19.2'
C	18°08.2'	67°19.2'
D	18°08.2'	67°22.4'
A	18°11.2'	67°22.4'

(C) *Abrir La Sierra Bank.*

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	18°06.5'	67°26.9'
B	18°06.5'	67°23.9'
C	18°03.5'	67°23.9'
D	18°03.5'	67°26.9'
A	18°06.5'	67°26.9'

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(3) *Grammanik Bank closed area.* (i) The Grammanik Bank closed area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	18°11.898'	64°56.328'
B	18°11.645'	64°56.225'
C	18°11.058'	64°57.810'
D	18°11.311'	64°57.913'
A	18°11.898'	64°56.328'

(ii) From February 1 through April 30, each year, no person may fish for or possess any species of fish, except highly migratory species, in or from the Grammanik Bank closed area. This prohibition on possession does not apply to such fish harvested and landed ashore prior to the closure. For the purpose of paragraph (a)(4) of this section, “fish” means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds. “Highly migratory species” means bluefin, bigeye, yellowfin, albacore, and skipjack tunas; swordfish; sharks (listed in Appendix A to part 635 of this title); and white marlin, blue marlin, sailfish, and longbill spearfish.

(4) *Red, black, tiger, yellowfin, or yellowedge grouper.* From February 1 through April 30, each year, no person may fish for or possess red, black, tiger, yellowfin, or yellowedge grouper in or from the Caribbean EEZ. This prohibition on possession does not apply to such grouper harvested and landed ashore prior to the closure.

(5) *Additional red hind closure.* From December 1 through the last day of February, each year, no person may fish for or possess red hind in or from the Caribbean EEZ west of 67°10' W. longitude. This prohibition on possession does not apply to red hind harvested and landed ashore prior to the closure.

(6) *Vermilion, black, silk, or blackfin snapper.* From October 1 through December 31, each year, no person may fish for or possess vermillion, black, silk, or blackfin snapper in or from the Caribbean EEZ. This prohibition on possession does not apply to such snapper harvested and landed ashore prior to the closure.

(7) *Lane or mutton snapper.* From April 1 through June 30, each year, no

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person may fish for or possess lane or mutton snapper in or from the Caribbean EEZ. This prohibition on possession does not apply to such snapper harvested and landed ashore prior to the closure.

(b) *Year-round area closures*—(1) *Hind Bank Marine Conservation District (MCD)*. The following activities are prohibited within the Hind Bank MCD: Fishing for any species, and anchoring by fishing vessels. The Hind Bank MCD is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the points listed.

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	18°13.2'	65°06.0'
B	18°13.2'	64°59.0'
C	18°11.8'	64°59.0'
D	18°10.7'	65°06.0'
A	18°13.2'	65°06.0'

(2) [Reserved]

(c) *Caribbean EEZ area closure related to Deepwater Horizon oil spill*. Effective [May 11, 2010, all fishing is prohibited in the portion of the Caribbean EEZ identified in the map shown on the NMFS Web site: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/deepwater_horizon_oil_spill.htm.

[64 FR 60133, Nov. 4, 1999, as amended at 70 FR 62081, Oct. 28, 2005; 73 FR 68361, Nov. 18, 2008; 75 FR 27218, May 14, 2010]

§ 622.34 Gulf EEZ seasonal and/or area closures.

(a) *Alabama SMZ*. The Alabama SMZ consists of artificial reefs and surrounding areas. In the Alabama SMZ, fishing by a vessel that is operating as a charter vessel or headboat, a vessel that does not have a commercial permit for Gulf reef fish, as required under § 622.4(a)(2), or a vessel with such a permit fishing for Gulf reef fish is limited to hook-and-line gear with three or fewer hooks per line and spearfishing gear. A person aboard a vessel that uses on any trip gear other than hook-and-line gear with three or fewer hooks per line and spearfishing gear in the Alabama SMZ is limited on that trip to the bag limits for Gulf reef fish specified in § 622.39(b) and, for Gulf reef fish for which no bag limit is specified in § 622.39(b), the vessel is limited to 5 percent, by weight, of all fish on board or landed. The Alabama SMZ is bounded

by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	30°02.5'	88°07.7'
B	30°02.6'	87°59.3'
C	29°55.0'	87°55.5'
D	29°54.5'	88°07.5'
A	30°02.5'	88°07.7'

(b) *Florida middle grounds HAPC*. Fishing with a bottom longline, bottom trawl, dredge, pot, or trap is prohibited year round in the area bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	28°42.5'	84°24.8'
B	28°42.5'	84°16.3'
C	28°11.0'	84°00.0'
D	28°11.0'	84°07.0'
E	28°26.6'	84°24.8'
A	28°42.5'	84°24.8'

(c) *Reef fish longline and buoy gear restricted area*. A person aboard a vessel that uses, on any trip, longline or buoy gear in the longline and buoy gear restricted area is limited on that trip to the bag limits for Gulf reef fish specified in § 622.39(b)(1) and, for Gulf reef fish for which no bag limit is specified in § 622.39(b)(1), the vessel is limited to 5 percent, by weight, of all fish on board or landed. The longline and buoy gear restricted area is that part of the Gulf EEZ shoreward of rhumb lines connecting, in order, the points listed in Table 1, in Appendix B of this part.

(d) *Tortugas marine reserves HAPC*. The following activities are prohibited within the Tortugas marine reserves HAPC: Fishing for any species and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels.

(1) *EEZ portion of Tortugas North*. The area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting the following points: From point A at 24°40'00" N. lat., 83°06'00" W. long. to point B at 24°46'00" N. lat., 83°06'00" W. long. to point C at 24°46'00" N. lat., 83°00'00" W. long.; thence along the line denoting the seaward limit of Florida's waters, as shown on the current edition of NOAA chart 11434, to point A at 24°40'00" N. lat., 83°06'00" W. long.

(2) *Tortugas South*. The area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points: